(c) whether the ratified rates of interest are as per the recommendations of EPF Board/Labour Ministry; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Government has not issued any notification in respect of rate of interest to be paid to EPF members for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 so far.

Setting up of New ITIs

†1513. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received so far from State Governments for the upgradation of ITIs as per the announcement made by Honourable Prime Minister with regard to upgradation of 500 ITIs;

(b) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh has also requested to upgrade certain ITIs of the State;

(c) if so, when such request was made; and

(d) the target in terms of numbers fixed for setting up of more new Industrial Training Institutes during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Central Government would provide assistance to the State/UT Governments to upgrade 500 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in a phased manner. So far, proposals for upgradation of 265 ITIs have been received from the State/UT Governments. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been taken up for upgradation of 100 ITIs in the 1st phase.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) August, 2004.

(d) New ITIs are established either by State Governments or by private sector. However, 23 new ITIs in the North-Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir would be set up under a special Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.